(c) what action government propose to take in the matter so as to check the rising trend of cotton prices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b) One of the mill organisations have informed about suspension of deliveries by Ginners in the Northern region. It appears that ginners are apprehensive of the loss because of difference in price.

(c) As far as delivery of cotton to mill by growers and traders etc. is concerned it is purely business transaction which is regulated as per trade practices. As regards steps taken to arrest the price rise, the government has reintroduced stock limits on cotton that may be held by Ginning & Pressing factories and persons including corporations federations but excluding cotton agriculturists so that stocking of cotton beyond prescribed limit does not take place and delivery of cotton to mills is normalisd. This is to prevent hoarding of cotton. Further in order to relieve the pressure on cotton, Govt. has allowed duty free import of 29,385 MTs of Viscose Staple Fibre. Also import of cotton has been placed under OGL with zero import duty.

Export of Handicrafts and Handloom Products

1073. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to increase the export of handicrafts and hand loom products during 1994-95;

(b) if so, the quantum of handicrafts and handloom products proposed to be exported during the above period;

(c) the details of the handicrafts and handloom products proposed to be exported;

(d) whether any item produced in Orissa is proposed to be exported; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The total handicrafts and handloom products proposed to be exported during 1994-95 in value terms are as under:

Handicrafts inclndidg handknotted carpet.	Handloom/ fabrics/madeup etc.
Rs. 3870.00 crores	Rs. 1470.00 crores

(c) The handicrafts items proposed to be exported include: handknoted carpets (woollen/silken/staple), artmetalwares, wooden artwares, handprinted textiles and scarves, embroidered goods, shawls as artwares, zari and zari goods, immitation jewellery etc. The handloom items proposed to be exported are fabrics for dresses/furnishing, madeup items like table/bed/kitchen linen, floor coverings, towels, pillow covers, cushion covers etc.

(d) and (e): Yes, Sir. The handicrafts items produced and proposed to be exported from the State of Orissa are wood carvings, bell metal handprinted textiles, terracotta, applique work etc. The handloom items to be exported from the State of Orissa are tie and dye, furnishing, dress materials and madeups.

बी० आई० सी० मिल कानपुर का उत्पादन

1074. **चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह** : क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या बी० आई० सी० मिल, कानपुर के उत्पादन में कमी आ रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ; और

(ग) इन्हें कार्यक्षम बनाने के लिए सरकार क्या कदम उठाने का विचार रखती है ?

वस्त्र मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री जी० वेंकटस्वामी) : (क) से (ग) ब्रिटिश इंडिया कारपोरेशन लि० कानपुर के अधीन की मिलों में उत्पादन में कमी कई कारणों से हुई है जिनमें कार्यशील पूंजी की कमी, अप्रचलित मशीनरी, कम क्षमता उपयोग, औद्योगिक कार्य मानदंडों का पालन न करना, घटिया उत्पाद मिश्रण, उच्च ब्याज का बोझ आदि शामिल हैं। सरकार बी०आई०सी० तथा इसकी सहायक कंपनियों के पुनरूद्धार के लिए पुनर्वासन पैकेज पर विचार कर रही है। किसी भी पुनर्वास योजना का कार्यान्वयन करने से पहले इस पर बी आई एफ आर की भी सहमति अपेक्षित होगी।

Revival of Sick NTC Mills

1075. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a high power Tripartite Committee, including representatives of the Ministry of Finance, and Heavy Industry, had resolved that the NTC mills should be restructured and modernised without effecting any closure and that issues of approximate cost and resource had also been worked out many months ago;

(b) if so, what are the reasons that the NTC Mills continue to be sick; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the Cabinet Sub-Committee is yet to find time to look into the matter; if so, by when Government would take a final decision including consultation with BIFR?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (c) The NTC mills have incurred losses due to, *inter alia*, obsolete machinery, lack of modernisation, shortage of working capital, law capacity utilisation, high man-machine ratio, etc. The Textile Research Association had prepared plans for modernisation, of the NTC mills. The Labour Ministry's Special Tripartite Committee on NTC, which included representatives of Trade Unions, has recommended that the mills can be made viable by modernisation as proposed by the Textile Research Associations,. A plan for revival of the NTC is being considered, though no decision has been taken so far by the Government. Since the cases of eight subsidiaries of the NTC stand referred to the Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) any final scheme that emerges would also require the concurrence of BIFR before it is implemented.

Effect of polyester staple fibre price hike on spinning Mills

1076. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to states:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 15th October, 1994 under the caption; 'Hike in PSF prices hits Spinning Units' that 150 Indian Spinning Mills, with a work force of about 75,000 are in deep distress for the last six months due to the hike in the PSF (Polyester Staple Fibre) prizes since June, 1993.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what remedial steps Government have taken/propose to take in the matters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MIINSTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There has been increase in the price of PSF during this year. The weighted average price of PSF as in October, 1994 was Rs. 11.93 per kg.